

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn-currently amended) A process for preparing partly hydrophobic ~~metal-oxide~~ silica particles, which comprises silylating ~~metal-oxide~~ silica particles with

I) an organosilane of the formula



where n is 1, 2 or 3

or mixtures of these organosilanes,

R¹ being a monovalent, optionally halogenated hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, being identical or different at each occurrence, and being saturated, aromatic, monounsaturated, or polyunsaturated,

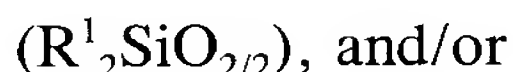
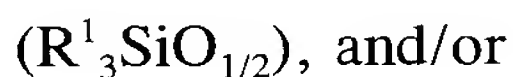
X each independently being halogen, a nitrogen radical, OR², OCOR², or O(CH₂)_xOR²,

R² being hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and

x being 1, 2 or 3;

or

II) an organosiloxane composed of units of the formula



where R¹ is as defined above, or mixtures thereof,

the number of these units in one organosiloxane being at least 2; and I and II being used alone or in any desired mixtures in a total amount of from 0.015 mmol/g to 0.15 mmol/g per 100

m²/g of ~~metal-oxide~~ silica BET surface area measured by the BET method in accordance with DIN 66131 and 66132.

2. (withdrawn-currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the ~~metal-oxide~~ silica comprises a pyrogenic ~~metal-oxide~~ silica.

3. (withdrawn-currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the ~~metal-oxide~~ silica is fluidized during silylation.

4. - 5. (cancelled).

6. (withdrawn-currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction comprises the steps of (1) loading ~~metal-oxide~~ silica with silylating agent(s) at a temperature of 20°C to 120°C to form a ~~metal-oxide~~ silica and silylating agent mixture, (2) reacting the ~~metal-oxide~~ silica and silylating agent mixture at a temperature of 50°C to 330°C to form a partly silylated ~~metal-oxide~~ silica, and (3) purifying the ~~partly-silylated~~ partly silylated silica ~~metal-oxide~~ at a temperature of 290°C to 340°C.

7. (currently amended) [[A partly]] Partly hydrophobic silica particles prepared by the process of claim 1, [[whose]] said partly hydrophobic silica particles [[have]] having a contact angle θ in air for water of less than 180°, [[the]] a degree of coverage τ of the surface of the silica with silylating agent residues, based on the total silica particle surface area, [[being]] of $1\% < \tau < 50\%$, [[the]] a density of [[the]] surface silanol groups SiOH ranging between a minimum of 0.9 and a maximum of 1.7 SiOH/nm² particle surface area, and the particles having a carbon content of more than 0% and less than 0.1% by weight and up to 20% by weight, and a methanol number of less than 30.

8. - 9. (cancelled).

10. (cancelled).

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11. (cancelled).

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (cancelled).